



**U.S. Department of Justice**

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,  
Firearms and Explosives

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[www.atf.gov](http://www.atf.gov)

October 10, 2019

REFER TO: 2019-1577

Mr. Parker Higgins  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 58403  
411A Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Dear Mr. Higgins:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) / Privacy Act request dated July 29, 2019, and received by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) on July 29, 2019, in which you requested records concerning undercover operations. Your request has been assigned number 2019-1577. Please refer to this number on any future correspondence.

For your information, this Office assigns incoming requests to one of three tracks: simple, complex, or expedited. Each request is then handled on a first-in, first-out basis in relation to other requests in the same track. Simple requests usually receive a response in approximately one month, whereas complex requests necessarily take longer. At this time, your request has been assigned to the complex track. You may wish to narrow the scope of your request to limit the number of potentially responsive records or agree to an alternative time frame for processing, should records be located; or you may wish to await the completion of our records search to discuss either of these options.

We have determined that you are an "representative of the news media" pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(ii)(II). As such, we are required to assess fees for duplication of responsive records. See 28 C.F.R. § 16.10(c)). You may review the Department of Justice regulations, which establish the fees charged for processing FOIA requests at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/granule/FR-2015-04-03/2015-07772>. If you disagree with this determination, you are welcome to provide any additional information that would demonstrate that you should not be considered an "representative of the news media"

Mr. Parker Higgins

requester. If you would like to discuss either the track or the fees associated with your request, please contact our FOIA Public Liaisons, Darryl Webb or Zina Kornegay, at (202) 648-7390. You may also discuss any aspect of your request with our FOIA Public Liaisons.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Siple".

Adam C. Siple  
Chief, Disclosure Division